REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are still pending in this application. Reconsideration of the application is earnestly requested. The Examiner has rejected all claims 1-22 under section 103 in view of *Hailpern, Tso* and *Trcka*. Although the Examiner's arguments have been carefully considered, Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections as explained below.

The Present Invention

As pointed out in the Reply filed December 7, 2004 antivirus software downloaded from an antivirus scanning server runs on user's computers and collects virus data. A central server then collects such virus data from each user's computer, consolidates the virus data, and creates virus tracking information that may be viewed on a display by any party. The Examiner's attention is directed toward the remaining discussion of the present invention in that Reply; for brevity, it is not repeated here.

The Cited Art Distinguished

The two cited primary references, U.S. Patent No. 6,275,937 issued to *Hailpern et al.* (*Hailpern*) and U.S. Patent No. 6,088,803 issued to *Tso et al.* (*Tso*), both describe a technique by which content downloaded from the Internet is first scanned by antivirus software on a server before it reaches a user's computer. These references do not disclose actually scanning a user's computer. The present invention discloses and claims an actual scan of the user's computer with the results being sent back to a central server. Because the two cited references are fundamentally different from the presently claimed invention, it is not surprising that many of the claimed steps and elements are not present in the cited references as explained below.

Hailpern address the problem of a user downloading data from the Internet, and provides intermediate proxy servers located between a client computer and the Internet. These intermediate proxy servers perform the antivirus scanning before data or programs from the Internet arrive at a client computer. (Column 3, lines 5-15; column 4, lines 1-47). *Hailpern* does not disclose performing an actual scan of a client computer (see, *e.g.*, column 9, lines 5-50).

Similarly, *Tso* also addresses the problem of infected files being downloaded to an end-user machine from the Internet (column 1, lines 48-54). The solution disclosed is to scan a data object at a network device before it reaches a client device (Figure 1; column 2, lines 16-25; lines

62-67). *Tso* does not disclose performing an actual scan of a client computer (see, *e.g.*, column 6, lines 6-50; column 8, lines 33-44).

Because both of these references do not actually scan any data or programs located on the client computer they cannot possibly disclose a scan log that details results of virus scanning on the client computer. A client computer might very well be infected with hundreds of computer viruses, but these intermediate scanning servers would never detect such viruses because they only scan content inbound coming over a network <u>before</u> it reaches the client computer. These references might be able to track the *sources* of computer viruses, but do not disclose real-time virus tracking and display of viruses on end-user computers. For example, the dangerous source database 2097 of *Hailpern* keeps track of where viruses come from over the Internet, but does not keep track of where they exist on client computers.

Claim 1

The office action alleges that *Hailpern* teaches the second element of claim 1, namely, "<u>at least one antivirus scanning server accessible via the distributed computer network, whereby the client users contact the server to facilitate virus scanning of the client computers</u>." But, because this reference only shows a proxy server that scans incoming content, it does not teach "virus scanning of the client computers."

The office action alleges that *Tso* teaches the third element of claim 1, namely, "<u>a scan log which is sent back from each client user detailing certain results of the virus scanning on each client computer</u>." But, because this reference only shows a network device 4 that scans incoming content from a network, it does not teach "results of the virus scanning on each client computer."

The office action alleges that *Tso* teaches the fourth element of claim 1, namely, "<u>a virus tracking server for receiving the scan log information from said client computers in real-time</u>." But, because this reference only shows a network device 4 that scans incoming content from a network, it does not teach "scan log information from said client computers." There is no scan log coming from the client computers.
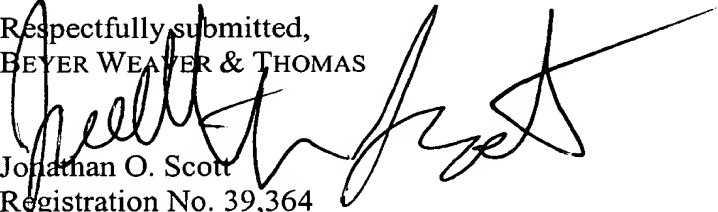
Claim 12

The office action alleges that *Hailpern* teaches the second step of claim 12, namely, "invoking the antivirus scanning program from a plurality of client users having potentially infected client computers." But, because this reference only shows a proxy server that scans incoming content, it does not teach "invoking the antivirus scanning program from a plurality of client users." The antivirus scanning of *Hailpern* is invoked at the proxy server, not at the client computer.

The office action alleges that *Tso* teaches the third element of claim 12, namely, "generating a scan log from each scanned client computer and sending the scan log back from each client user, the scan log detailing certain results of the scanning program on each client computer." But, because this reference only shows a network device 4 that scans incoming content from a network, it does not teach virus scanning on the client computer, generating a scan log and sending it back from the client computer.

The office action alleges that *Tso* teaches the fourth element of claim 12, namely, "receiving the scan log information from said client computers in real-time via a virus tracking server associated with the distributed computer network." But, because this reference only shows a network device 4 that scans incoming content from a network, it does not teach "scan log information from said client computers." There is no scan log coming from the client computers.

For these reasons, it is respectfully noted that there is no prima facie case of obviousness, and it is requested that the rejection of claims 1-22 be withdrawn. Reconsideration of this application and issuance of a Notice of Allowance at an early date are respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would in any way expedite prosecution, please do not hesitate to telephone the undersigned at (612) 252-3330.

Respectfully submitted,
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